

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. The text of claims 2-7 and 9-14 is unchanged, but their meaning is changed because they depend from amended claims.

New claims 15-20 also particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

**Request for Allowance**

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

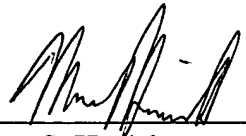
If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: 3/25/04

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc S. Hanish  
Reg. No. 42,626

Thelen Reid & Priest LLP  
P.O. Box 640640  
San Jose, CA 95164-0640  
Tel. (408) 292-5800  
Fax. (408) 287-8040